Udhana-Jalgaon is an unelectrified portion of Surat-Bhusawal section. The electrification work of Udhana-Jalgaon section is proposed to be included in the Budget for the year 1997-98.

[English]

Oriya Programme on Doordarshan/AIR in Orissa

317 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa which have the facilities of producing original programmes in Oriya language, location-wise;

(b) the details of such projects under implementation in the State;

(c) whether Oriya language is given adequate time to telecast on the National network and DD channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) National Network of Doordarshan does not telecast any programmes in any regional language. However, regional films which have won National award or panorma entry and also dance and music programmes of eminent artists in regional languages are telecast in the National Network.

The programmes telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar are available all over the country through cable connection. Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar telecast regional programmes from 4.30 P.M. to 8.30 P.M. daily which can be seen terrestrially all over Orissa.

STATEMENT

(a) The following eleven AIR Stations in Orissa have the facilities of producing original programmes in Oriya language :

1. Cuttack
2. Jeypore
3. Sambalpur
4. Keonjhar
5. Baripada
6. Berhampur
7. Bolangir
8. Bhawanipatna
9. Rourkela
10. Puri
11. Joranda

Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar and Sambalpur have studio facilities to produce programmes in Oriya language.

(b) The project under implementation :

All India Radio

The existing transmitters at Sambalpur and Jeypore are being upgraded. Local Radio Stations are being set-up at Soro (Balasore) and Rairangpur.

Doordarshan

A studio centre is being set up at Bhawanipatna.

Orders for MG Coaches Stopped

318 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board has stopped placing orders for MG Coaches and that MG coaches are generally overaged and unsafe for passenger operation;

(b) if so, the details of overaged coaches and the state of such overaged coaches; and

(c) the number of new MG coaches built during the last three years and outstanding orders as at present and the number of overaged MG coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) In view of requirement of MG Coaches coming down with the planned gauge conversion, Railway Board decided to stop manufacture of new MG Coaches. It is not correct that MG coaches are generally overaged and unsafe for passenger operation.

(b) The average economic life of a MG Coach is 25 years. As on 31.3.96, about 16% of the MG coaches had completed 25 years of service. The condition of these coaches is satisfactory and they are safe and fit for operation in all respects.

(c) The number of new MG coaches built during the last three years is under :

Year	No. of coaches mfd.
1993-94	70
1994-95	Nil
1995-96	Nil

There is no outstanding order for MG Coach manufacture at present. As on 31.3.96, 890 coaches had completed a service of 25 years out of a total holding of 5565 MG passenger carrying coaches.